

Shining A Light On Volunteerism

Governor Christie's 2013 Points Of Light Tribute Award Highlights Administration Efforts To Celebrate Volunteerism Across The Garden State

Tonight in Washington, D.C., Governor Christie will be honored at the 2013 Points of Light Tribute Awards. The Points of Light Tribute Awards spotlight individuals and organizations who best exemplify the American ideals of service and voluntary action. Earlier this year, the Governor delivered the keynote address at the 2013 Points of Light National Conference on Volunteering and Service.

Founded in response to President George H.W. Bush's 1989 call for a "thousand points of light" with citizens volunteering to help their fellow citizens, the Points of Light Foundation is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that encourages the spirit of service. In the past, volunteers from Points of Light have assisted with relief efforts in the aftermath of September 11th, Hurricane Katrina, the deadly earthquake in Haiti and other tragic events.

NEW JERSEYANS COMING TOGETHER IN THE FACE OF NATURAL DISASTERS

In the aftermath of the worst storm in our state's history, volunteers throughout New Jersey and across the nation responded immediately to the devastation and they began working together as part of a long-term effort to help our state recover and rebuild. Many New Jersey volunteers lost their own homes and possessions, yet they demonstrated the strength and character of our great state by working to aid others who were also affected by the storm and helped get our communities back on their feet:

- More than one million pounds of food and nearly 5 million meals and snacks were served through the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, the Southern Baptists, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross;
- 473 volunteer organizations have participated in Sandy recovery efforts:
 - Eighty eight of those organizations have reported more than 165,000 volunteers alone;
 - Jersey Cares and AmeriCorps' 16,500 volunteers gave more than 86,000 hours of assistance.
- Volunteers across the state contributed more than 1 million hours of service during the recovery.

NJ HEROES HIGHLIGHTS ORDINARY CITIZENS DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

Launched in December 2010 by First Lady Mary Pat Christie, [NJ Heroes](#) recognizes and celebrates the tireless efforts of unsung heroes that make the lives of New Jersey citizens better. To date, the organization has honored 23 Heroes and has donated more than \$100,000 to help them continue doing their work around the state. In addition, Mrs. Christie has awarded 40 scholarships, totaling \$250,000 to graduating high school seniors, veterans and active military service members who've shows a commitment to their community and volunteerism to use toward college.

THE CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION IS GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Season of Service

The Administration-wide "[Season of Service](#)" initiative builds on the same commitment to community the Governor emphasized in his 2010 inaugural address. During the holiday season, cabinet members, Administration officials and staff give back to their communities by volunteering at various organizations across the state. The "Season of Service" was inspired by 8-year old Aidan McManus, an NJ Hero who has devoted his time and hard-earned money to feed the homeless and those in need in Burlington County. Governor Christie and First Lady Mary Pat Christie kicked off the 2nd Annual Season of Service by distributing packaged Thanksgiving dinners prepared by Boston Market for families affected by Super Storm Sandy.

Governor's Office of Volunteerism

To help volunteers serve their community, the Governor's Office of Volunteerism provides valuable technical assistance, information on the latest trends and best practices in volunteerism, and recognizes individuals and groups that enhance New Jersey's communities through voluntary service. The Governor's Advisory Council on Volunteerism and Community

Service reaches out to and builds partnerships with businesses, county volunteer centers, voluntary organizations active in disasters, schools and colleges, and public and non-profit organizations. It also analyzes community needs and identifies resources. The Office of Volunteerism is also responsible for recognizing outstanding volunteers by administering the prestigious Governor's Jefferson Awards that recognize the volunteerism of New Jersey residents of all ages and backgrounds that have enhanced the quality of life of their communities through service. This year, the awards focused on volunteers who devoted their time, talent and energy to the Super Storm Sandy recovery efforts.

Governor's Volunteerism Conference

Started by former Governor Tom Kean, the Governor's Volunteerism Conference is guided by the Governor's Advisory Council on Volunteerism and brings together multiple sectors of the volunteer community in New Jersey. The bi-annual conference drew 650 participants last October where Lt. Governor Guadagno saluted the service of the 1.5 million volunteers across the Garden State. The conference, which featured 29 workshops and brought together volunteers and volunteer managers from all sectors of New Jersey, also served to kick-off efforts to recruit 12,000 volunteers needed for the 2014 Super Bowl at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium.